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OPEDA Newsletter

ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

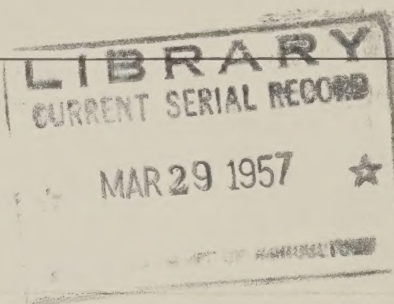
Vol. 8

APRIL 1956

No. 3

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OPEDA CHANGES HEADQUARTERS - Now Room 425 Colorado Bldg., 1341 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (Phone DI 7-4649. Mailing address still P.O. Box 381)

OPEDA is growing up. With an anticipated membership by July 1 of 5,000 and a keen interest on the part of all agencies which assures OPEDA's growth, officers of the Organization recently decided to find a suitable office not far from USDA. In a letter to Secretary Benson, president Chris Henderson stated: "I am confident that the Organization has the Department's blessing and your personal congratulation on achieving the stature that made this venture possible. On behalf of all OPEDA members, both past and present, I wish to express our grateful appreciation for the help and support of the Department during the 27 years of the Organization's existence."

The move to new headquarters was ours. The next move is yours--to keep memberships rolling in so that we can maintain and increase our services to you and all members.

OPEDA TO HONOR "CLIFF" HOPE

OPEDAns will gather May 3, 6:15 p.m., in the 4th Wing Cafeteria to honor Representative Clifford G. Hope of Kansas, who will retire from Congress this year after 30 years on the House Agricultural Committee. Plans are all laid for a successful evening by a hard-working committee: Glenn K. Rule (SCS), chairman; Milton Bryan (FS), Bushrod Allin (AMS), Tom Ayers (ACPS), E.A. Norton (SCS), Ernest Moore (ARS), and Dillard Lasseter, OPEDA. Also Mrs. Corinne LeBovit (ARS), Gus Burmeister (FAS), W.S. Harris (CSS). Clint Davis and Dorothy Martin of FS handled publicity and tickets. Chris Henderson (Pers.) arranged the program, which will include music by the USDA Instrumental Trio, talks by Senator Carlson of Kansas, Representative Cooley of North Carolina, Undersecretary of USDA True D. Morse, Dr. S.B. Fracker of ARS, and Representative Hope. R.E. McArdle, FS chief, will serve as toastmaster.

NEW OFFICERS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN MAY

Ralph Stauber, chairman of the Nominating Committee, will announce results of the election of officers and executive committee at the May Council meeting. The next Newsletter will carry a new "Who's Who in OPEDA."

HERE AND THERE

Perhaps the day isn't far off when the dream of Dennett Guthrie (FAS) will come true that the "Sun will never go down on OPEDA members." At his invitation, eight agricultural attaches have joined OPEDA. We welcome: C.K. Baker, Mexico; S.O. Berg, Denmark; W.J. Edens, Indonesia; W.C. King, Brazil; H.C. Larsen, Sweden; Ford Milam, Liberia; Edw. R. Raymond, Ireland; and Roy Sellers, India. Already members were Earl Loveridge, Colombia; Fred Rossiter, Canada; and Samuel H. Work, Chile.

Dr. E.L. LeClerc (ARS) has stirred up interest in OPEDA during recent visits to regional laboratories. Twenty memberships were sent in from the Southern Regional Lab at New Orleans by C.L. Hoffpauir..... Good results also from letters sent out by Glenn Rule (SCS) and Roland Rotty (FS).

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LATEST ON LEGISLATION

Retirement Legislation - S.2875, the Omnibus Retirement Bill, has been reported out of the Senate Post Office & Civil Service Committee and is expected to pass the Senate without difficulty. Senator Johnston, sponsor of the legislation, states that the bill "provides increased annuities to employees upon their retirement from the Federal service, more liberal benefits to employees who suffer total disabilities during their careers, larger payments to widows, dependent widowers and minor children; permits retirement upon completion of 30 years of service; and many other benefits of great importance to the Federal career employee." "The cost of the measure," he added, "is to be shared equally by the Government and its employees. Thus, for the first time the Civil Service Retirement System will be on a sound basis with costs being fully met on a pay-as-you-go basis."

Federal-State Retirement portion of this legislation was deleted because the Senate Post Office & Civil Service Committee felt that its inclusion might endanger the whole bill due to the veto of the Federal-State Retirement bill (S.1041) by the President last year. The Committee, however, expressed itself as unanimously in favor of the legislation and directed that further study be given to it. The Federal-State Retirement legislation is still included in bills that will be considered by the House, and decision on this legislation is not yet final for this session.

Federal Employee Health Insurance Legislation has run into serious opposition and its passage this year is doubtful..... The Executive Pay Raise, S.2628, H.R. 7619, is still being considered by the Senate Post Office & Civil Service Committee, but no action is due soon. In addition to pay raises for top executives, this bill lifts the ceiling on super GS grades and should eventually benefit all employees.

OPEDA's Executive Director, Dillard Lasseter, is in touch daily with the Congress on all of these bills. Further report will be made in the next Newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE LUNCHEONS

Emphasis was on science at recent OPEDA luncheons. In February (too late for Feb. Newsletter), Dr. Sterling B. Hendricks, head chemist, Soil & Water Conservation Research Branch, ARS, spoke at the Washington forum on "Peacetime Uses of Atomic Energy in Agriculture." He gave his listeners a capsule course in nuclear physics, outlining discoveries that led to development of the atomic bomb and telling some of the uses of atomic energy today, with limitations due to economics..... Dr. Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation, speaking at Beltsville in February on "Meeting the Needs for Scientific Manpower," said that primary interests for us are more and better teachers, more and better scientists, more and better engineers, and better educated citizens..... In March, Paul Maris, former director, FO Division, FHA, spoke on "Effective Approaches to Rural Improvement in Underdeveloped Countries," showing slides he made in the Middle East while with the Ford Foundation..... Dr. Paul Huntoon, associate director for physics, Bureau of Standards, spoke at the April Washington luncheon on "Opportunities for Modern Computers," describing the two main types, analog and digital and their use.

To "balance the diet," Government columnists John Cramer and Joseph Young were speakers at the March Washington and the April Beltsville luncheons, giving their views on matters of interest to Federal employees. These matters are covered for you by Mr. Lasseter's report on Latest Legislation (above).

OPEDA FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Regular Funds</u>	<u>Educational Fund</u>	<u>Combined Total</u>
Cash in bank Dec. 31, 1954	\$ 2,293.76	\$2,383.78	\$ 4,677.54
	Receipts		
Membership dues 1955	\$ 5,534.00		
Membership dues 1956	5,657.00		
Membership dues 1957	3,356.00		
Membership dues 1958 & 1959	14.00		
Contributions	122.21	1,110.50	
Reimbursement for services	14.25		
Collection of NSF checks from '54	6.00		
Totals	\$14,703.46	\$16,997.22	\$3,494.28
	Disbursements		
Salaries	3,991.08	2,118.46	
Printing, mimeo, addressographing	2,016.59	91.60	
Postage, supplies, telephone	559.56	87.91	
Social Security tax (Employer)	79.80	42.25	
Miscellaneous	169.96	107.03	
Refunds to contributors		95.00	
	6,816.98	2,542.25	
Cash in bank Dec. 31, 1955	\$10,180.24	\$952.03	\$11,132.27